



Borough and Port of Lancaster.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1919,

TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT OF THE

Inspector of Nuisances.

Lancaster:

PRINTED BY BEELEY BROS., PENNY STREET.

—
1920.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillor BELL, Chairman.

The MAYOR (Ald. Wright).	Councillor RILEY.
Alderman OGLETHORPE.	„ WALKER.
Councillor THOMPSON.	„ GLASBY.
„ JEMMISON.	„ PARR.
„ CURWEN.	„ GOOCH.
„ CARDWELL.	„ SMITH.
„ IRELAND.	„ PROCTER.
Councillor (Mrs.) A. E. HELME.	

Town Clerk : T. CANN HUGHES, M.A.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer	...	J. D. BUCHANAN, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
Chief Inspector of Nuisances	...	... F. W. SMITH (a).
Assistant Sanitary Inspectors	...	{ G. EGNER (a, b). H. SCHOLEFIELD (a, b).
Health Visitors (who are also School Nurses)...	...	{ B. B. THOMS (a, d). M. THOMPSON (e). E. FREEGARD (e). M. EDWARDS (d, e).
Chief Clerk	...	... H. H. KELLETT.
Clerks	...	{ M. H. BLEASDALE. G. GRIEVE. F. SYKES.
Disinfector	...	... R. SYKES.

Matron, Isolation Hospitals	...	M. LANYON
Public Analyst	...	C. ESTCOURT, F.I.C., F.C.S.
Veterinary Inspector	...	O. DUCKSBURY, M.R.C.V.S.

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- (a) Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
(b) Meat Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
(d) Certificate of Central Midwives Board.
(e) Hospital Trained Nurse.

Statistics for 1919.

Area of Borough in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	3,610
Population (Census, 1911)	...	...	...	...	...	41,410*
„ (Estimate for mid-year, 1919)	...	...	...	...	...	40,000*
„ Registrar General's Estimate :—						
For Birth-rate	...	...	...	...	...	38,325
For Death-rate...	...	...	...	...	...	36,791
Number of Births	...	...	...	...	...	686
Number of Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	539
Natural Increase of Population	...	...	...	...	...	147
Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	65
Number of Marriages	...	...	...	...	...	475

* Including about 4,500 in the various Institutions, over 3,000 of whom do not belong to Lancaster.

The Rateable Value for the year was £199,747, and the estimated product of a penny rate £840. The Rates for the year were 9s. 4d. in the £.

The following table shows the more important Rates for 1919 and the preceding year, etc., per 1,000 of population. The figures in brackets are those for England and Wales :—

	Per 1,000 of Population.				Rate of Deaths under 1 year to 1,000 Births.
	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Epidemic Death-rate.	Phthisis Death-rate.	
1919	17·8 (18·5)	14·6 (13·8)	0·35	1·14	94 (89)
1918	15·6 (17·7)	17·2 (17·6)	0·83	1·28	138 (97)
Mean of 10 years, 1909–1918...	19·3	14·2	0·78	1·25	108

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND COUNCILLORS OF
THE BOROUGH AND PORT OF LANCASTER.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with the General Order of the Local Government Board I beg to present to you my Seventh Annual Report.

In the Ministry of Health's circular letter of last January dealing with these Annual Reports it is suggested that the "Council should
"arrange for the Report to be distributed locally as widely as
"possible, and should take steps through the local press and other-
"wise to bring its contents effectively to the knowledge of the
"people. One of the main purposes of the compilation of the Report
"is that, by giving it the widest possible publicity, it shall engender
"a popular interest in the subject, and an enlightened public opinion
"which shall support the Local Authority in realising its high
"responsibilities for the health of its area. . . . Such an
"increase of public knowledge and interest in these matters may also
"become an effective means of educating the citizens in the more
"important conditions of public health, of warning them against
"particular dangers, and of securing that highly important co-opera-
"tion and confidence between them and the Health Authority and its
"staff, which is essential to successful health administration."

The arrangement of the matter contained in the present Report differs from that in previous years and follows the lines laid down in the Ministry's Memorandum.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. D. BUCHANAN,

August, 1920.

Borough and Port of Lancaster.

Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

Population.

At the last Census, in 1911, the population was 41,410. This figure included an Institutional population of about 4,600, over 3,000 of whom had been brought from outside the Borough for treatment. Our estimate of 40,000 for 1919 was compiled from the records at the office of the Local Food Control Committee, and is, therefore, fairly accurate.

The growth of the population during a Century will be seen from the following figures : —

1811	9,247	1841	12,089	1871	17,245
1821	10,144	1851	14,562	1881	20,664
1831	12,813	1861	14,481	1891	31,034
1901	40,320	1911	41,410		

(The Borough boundary was extended in 1888, and again in 1900.)

In the absence of immigration and emigration, in respect of which accurate records are not available, fluctuations in population could readily be calculated from the number of births and deaths. The following table shews the natural increase in the population for a period of ten years, the small figure for 1918 being due to the heavy mortality from Influenza :—

	Births.	Deaths*	Natural Increase.
1910	914	555 (126)	359
1911	834	541 (84)	293
1912	849	498 (81)	351
1913	758	524 (73)	234
1914	788	488 (68)	300
1915	668	554 (91)	114
1916	688	553 (71)	135
1917	656	515 (60)	141
1918	694	682 (96)	12
1919	685	539 (65)	146
Totals	7,534	5,449 (815)	2,085

* The figures in brackets are the deaths occurring in the first 12 months.

A description of the "Physical Features and General Character of the District" will be found in previous reports.

The manufacture of floorcloth and oilcloth is the chief industry of the town. At the Census of 1911 more than a quarter of the male workers were engaged in this industry.

The results of the Census returns as to occupations and overcrowding were set out in the Annual Report for 1913.

In November, 1918, the number of workpeople employed at the National Projectile Factory, Lancaster, was 4,366 men, 318 boys, and 4,212 women. The number employed now (August, 1920) is 506 men, 38 boys, and 17 women. "The question of the future of the factory and the work to be undertaken there is now receiving careful consideration." Amongst those thrown out of employment was a number of men who had left their ordinary occupations during the war to join His Majesty's Forces or help in the more remunerative work of making munitions of war. Many of these were unable during 1919 to find employment with their former employers, and towards the end of the year they and their families began to suffer hardships. Representations on their behalf were made by individuals and organisations to the Public Health Department and the Corporation, and assistance was rendered so far as the limited funds available, and the limited powers of the Local Authority permitted.

The amount of Poor Law Relief is a rough index to the condition. The figures for the past six years are :—In 1914, £1,179 ; in 1915, £1,110 ; in 1916, £841 ; in 1917, £636 ; in 1918, £583 ; and in 1919, £1,015.

For some time a register of needy families has been kept at the Public Health Office ; there are now on it 40 families, comprising 191 individuals.

The Royal Lancaster Infirmary is the general hospital for Lancaster and district. Like other voluntary hospitals, its financial outlook is gloomy. An Extension Ward, mainly for munition workers, was added during the war. "The number of patients treated during 1919 was 1,028, as against 964 in the previous year, an increase of 64. These consisted of 377 men, 440 women, and 211 children. The average duration of stay in the hospital was 22·5 days, as against 25 days in 1918. The out-patients numbered 865, as against 1,902 in the previous year. There were also 83 paying patients.

The X-Ray Department, closed during the war, has been brought up to date, new equipment installed, and re-opened."

An Orthopædic Clinic has recently been established at the Infirmary. The Medical Report for 1919 states that "the need for still further extension of the Institution is more and more urgent and clamant."

Mr. Neville Holden, F.R.A.S., has kindly supplied the following summary of the weather during 1919:—

"The total amount of sunshine recorded was 1,262 hours which is about 80 over the average for 25 years.

Rainfall amounted to 38·99 inches, which is 1·79 below the average for 58 years. The number of hours during which rain fell amounted to 770.

Temperatures were lower than usual. The mean temperature of the year was 47°. The highest maximum in the screen was 79° on two days, and the lowest minimum 18° on one day in November. The lowest on the grass was 13°, and there were 94 days of ground frost.

Earth temperatures were slightly lower than the previous year. At a depth of 4 feet the mean temperature for June was 58·6°, July 59°, August 60·8°, and September 59°. The highest reading was 62° in August.

The prevailing wind was from the West."

Vital Statistics.

Birth-rate —According to the Registrar-General, whose figures are used in this section, the total number of births was 686, of which these are the details:—

		Males.		Females.
Legitimate	...	316	...	307
Illegitimate	...	31	...	31

On a population of 38,325, the birth-rate was, therefore, 17·8 per 1,000.

Marriage-rate.—There were 475 marriages during the year, an increase of 44 on the previous year, equal to a rate of 24·7 per 1,000.

Death-rate.—The total deaths from all causes were 539 (143 less than in 1918), equal to a rate of 14·6 per 1,000 on the “death-rate” population of 36,791 (civilian deaths only are included).

The appended table shews the Causes of Death for males and females. No deaths occurred from (1) Enteric Fever, (2) Small-pox, (5) Whooping Cough, (8) Erysipelas, or (21) Cirrhosis of the Liver.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
All Causes	273	266
3.—Measles	3	6
4.—Scarlet Fever	1	—
6.—Diphtheria and Croup	2	—
7.—Influenza	8	24
9.—Pulmonary Tuberculosis	22	20
10.—Tuberculous Meningitis	—	2
11.—Other Tuberculous Diseases	8	5
12.—Cancer, Malignant Disease	22	20
13.—Rheumatic Fever... ..	2	1
14.—Meningitis... ..	2	3
15.—Organic Heart Disease	38	32
16.—Bronchitis... ..	17	27
17.—Pneumonia (all forms)	34	17
18.—Other Respiratory Diseases	3	2
19.—Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	—	1
20.—Appendicitis and Typhlitis	2	2
21a.—Alcoholism	1	—
22.—Nephritis and Bright's Disease... ..	4	6
23.—Puerperal Fever	—	2
24.—Parturition, apart from 23	—	2
25.—Congenital Debility, etc.	17	10
26.—Violence, apart from suicide	6	4
27.—Suicide	1	3
28.—Other defined diseases	79	77
29.—Causes ill-defined or unknown	1	—
Special Causes (<i>included above</i>):		
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	1
Poliomyelitis	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:		
Total	37	28
Illegitimate	6	6

The number of uncertified deaths was 18, and 24 inquests were held during the year.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Water.—The district possesses one of the purest water supplies in the country. The supply is constant and proved sufficient during the year. No complaints were received pointing to plumbo-solvent action.

Rivers and Streams.—The new sewer from Bulk Ward was carried further down the River Lune during the year; owing to unfavourable tides it has not been completed.

Drainage and Sewerage.—There is nothing new to report under this heading.

Closet Accommodation.—Fresh-water Closets predominate in the district, owing to the foresight and enthusiasm of a former chairman of the Sanitary Committee. Where privies exist they are connected with farms. It is owing to difficulties of drainage that there are still a number of pail-closets remaining.

Water Closets number	...	...	12,148
Pail Closets	...	...	67
Privies	...	...	25

The number of baths is 2,553.

Scavenging.—The collection of house refuse, which had fallen into arrears during 1918 was speeded up during the spring by a special effort, and complaints of accumulation rapidly diminished. There is a large number of insanitary ashpits in the Borough, and a beginning was made during the year with their abolition. The ideal of a sanitary ashbin, emptied weekly, for each household seems a long way off. The number of ashpits in the district is 4,772, and of ashbins 2,331.

Sanitary Inspection of District.

The work done by the Inspectorate Staff is summarised in the Chief Inspector's report, which is appended.

1,376 notices (955 informal, and 421 statutory) were served, compared with 825 in 1918.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations.

The number and character of such will be found in the Inspector's report.

The Health Committee considered the question of the excessive emission of black smoke from various factory, etc., chimneys, and the attention of the Electricity Committee was called to the nuisance caused by the Electricity Works' chimney, one of the worst offenders.

Schools.—The elementary schools in Skerton Ward were closed for a week in the Spring owing to the prevalence of Influeuza.

Food.

(a) Milk Supply.—Early in the year complaints were received as to the quality of the milk supply from the Local Food Control Committee, who asked for systematic sampling. For years samples, to the number of 50 per annum, have been taken regularly, and the results of analysis of those collected in 1919 are set out below.

Milk and Cream Regulations, 1912 and 1917.—No special samples of cream were examined. No preservative was detected in any of the 51 milk samples.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1918.—This Order provided that any Local Authority within the meaning of the Notification of Births Act, 1907, may, and when required by the L.G.B., shall, arrange for the supply of food and milk for expectant and nursing mothers and of milk for infants and children under five years of age. The Medical Officer was instructed by the Council to exercise his discretion and supply dried milk, free, in necessitous cases. 1,213lbs. of dried milk, representing 7,278 pints of the raw fluid, were distributed through the Infant Welfare Centre.

(b) Other Foods.—An account of the work done will be found in the Inspector's report.

(c) **Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.**—It will be seen from the Inspector's report that, of the many articles analysed, milk was the only one adulterated. No less than eight samples out of 51 proved to be below the "standard" of the Board of Agriculture, which is itself too low. In three of the eight cases prosecution followed and fines were imposed.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

The following diseases were compulsorily notifiable during the year :—Small-pox, Cholera, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria; Typhoid, Typhus, Continued and Relapsing Fevers; Puerperal Fever, Erysipelas, Cerebro-Spinal Fever, Acute Poliomyelitis, Tuberculosis (all forms of), Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Measles and German Measles; Acute Encephalitis Lethargica and Acute Polio-Encephalitis; and, from 1st March, 1919, Malaria, Dysentery, Trench Fever, Acute Primary Pneumonia, and Acute Influenzal Pneumonia.

No cases of the following diseases were notified :—Small-pox, Cholera, Typhus, Continued and Relapsing Fever, Cerebro-Spinal Fever, Poliomyelitis, Eucephalitis Lethargica, Polio-Eucephalitis, Trench Fever, Dysentery.

798 notifications were received, as follows :—

Diphtheria	10	Malaria	16
Scarlet Fever	32	Pneumonia	48
Enteric Fever.....	2	Pulm. Tubercle.....	80
Puerperal Fever.....	4	Tuberculosis(other forms)	29
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	16	Measles, etc.	541
Erysipelas	20		

The following table is interesting as shewing the prevalence of the three commoner notifiable diseases for which hospital provision is available :—

NOTIFICATIONS FOR TEN YEARS, 1910-19.

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.
1910	179	30	26
1911	313	19	14
1912	129	21	4
1913	47	15	19
1914	237	56	28
1915	61	29	24
1916	151	18	5
1917	42	15	6
1918	15	20	9
1919	32	10	2
Average Annual No....	120	23	13

Scarlet Fever.—In four cases the source of infection was from another case in the same house. Four cases were notified on the second day of the disease, 10 on the third day, 8 on the fourth, 2 on the fifth, 3 on the sixth, and one each on the 7th, 8th, 10th, 13th, and 35th day of the disease. There were no “return” cases. One death was due to Scarlet Fever.

Diphtheria.—Ten cases were notified, two of which were fatal. Two cases were notified on the 3rd day of the disease, three on the 5th, one each on the 6th and 7th, two on the 8th and one on the 9th day.

Enteric Fever.—Only two cases were notified and both recovered. One was notified in the second week of the illness, the other at the end of the third week.

Small-pox.—It is nine years since a case of this disease was notified in the district. Two suspicious cases, which proved to be Chicken-pox, were reported by doctors and a number of imported “contacts” were visited and kept under observation.

No action was taken by the M.O.H. under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

Malaria.—Sixteen cases were notified, all contracted abroad. All were visited and advised to obtain and continue treatment.

Pneumonia.—The majority of the cases notified were visited in order to find out if the patients were receiving the necessary nursing assistance.

Influenza.—This disease, which accounted for 95 deaths in 1918, claimed 32 victims (8 males and 24 females) in the Spring of 1919. The majority of the deaths occurred between the ages of 15 and 45. The mortality rate was '87 per thousand population.

Measles, etc.—541 cases were notified and 9 deaths occurred. Four cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Non-Notifiable Acute Infectious Diseases.—Four cases of Whooping Cough, 15 of Mumps, and 69 of Chicken-pox were notified from Schools during the year.

Tuberculosis.—Eighty cases of Pulmonary and 29 of other forms of Tuberculosis were notified. No notification was received during life in the case of four patients who died from Pulmonary, and of three who died from other forms of Tuberculosis.

The County Council is the authority in the district for the treatment of Tuberculosis. There is a dispensary in this Borough.

Venereal Diseases.—The responsibility for schemes dealing with these diseases lies also on the County Council. Owing to the difficulty in obtaining suitable premises, a clinic has not yet been established in the district. A beginning was made with propaganda work in November, when a public meeting (by invitation) was held and a local committee formed. No action was taken under the Venereal Disease Act, 1917.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Midwives.—The Lancashire County Council is the supervising authority under the Midwives Acts, 1902 and 1918. There are now on the register 13 midwives practising in Lancaster, six of whom are qualified by examination. One of the latter has been since June, 1919, on the staff of the District Nursing Society, to which the Corporation pays an annual grant of £50. The Society's Superintendent Nurse reports that the midwife had attended six midwifery cases (84 visits) and seventeen maternity cases (250 visits) till the end of the year, and that the number of bookings at the beginning of 1920 was sixteen. Pregnant women in poor circumstances, who cannot afford the usual fees, are referred by the M.O.H. from the Infant Welfare Centre to the Nursing Society.

Health Visitors.—There are now four of these who give half their time to Child Welfare work and half to the School Medical service. During the year they paid 2,292 visits to infants under one year, and 975 to children between one and five years of age. They also paid 153 visits to expectant mothers in their homes, in addition to 695 other visits in connection with the notification of measles and ophthalmia neonatorum, and enquiries into the deaths of infants and children up to five years of age. The number of children under five years of age visited in 1919 was 933. The first visit to the new-born infant is made as a rule within 14 days of its birth. 706 births were notified in 1919, 676 of them within the statutory 36 hours. 90 per cent. of the babies seen at the first visit were breast-fed, 8 per cent. breast-and-bottle-fed, and 2 per cent. entirely bottle-fed (these

figures are an improvement on those for the previous year). From the Birth-enquiry Cards it appears that medical practitioners attended 42 per cent. of confinements, and midwives 52 per cent.

Cases of apparent neglect of duty or disregard of the C.M.B. Rules on the part of the Midwives are reported to the Supervising Authority.

Still-births.—24 still-births were notified and 31 still-born infants were buried in the Cemeteries. Enquiry was made by the Health Visitors into the 24 notified cases. Eleven occurred in the 9th month of pregnancy, six in the 8th, four in the 7th, one in the 6th, and two in the 5th month.

The mother was attended by a doctor in 5 cases, by a midwife in 8 cases, and by both doctor and midwife in 11 cases. In two instances the mother had had previous still-born children.

The causes of these still-births, as given by the mothers, were as follows:—Overwork, 3; Falls, 2; Ill-health (chronic and acute), 6; Twins, 2; Hæmorrhage, 1; and Poverty, 1.

In the last case the mother herself died during child-birth. In the remaining cases no cause was given.

Infantile Mortality.—67 infants (compared with 94 in the previous year) died before reaching the age of 12 months. As 671 births were registered the infant mortality rate for the year was, therefore, 100 per 1,000 births. The corresponding figure for 1918 was 136. No less than 21 of these deaths occurred in the first week, and at least 37, or more than half of the total deaths, were due to pre-natal causes, premature birth alone being given as the cause in 22 instances. Eleven deaths were attributed to Convulsions, eight to Bronchitis, and three to Pneumonia. The Health Visitors enquired also into the deaths of children between 1 and 5 years, as well as into those of infants under 12 months. With regard to the latter the Health Visitor for John O'Gaunt, Park, Bowerham and Scotforth Wards (19 deaths) gives Influenza in the mother as the primary cause of the infants death in four instances, ill-health and injury (mothers) in 6 cases, and ignorance of mothercraft in 4 cases.

She states that "the rush and worry of modern life, the anxiety to make ends meet, and the shortage of fats, etc., are playing havoc with the health of nursing mothers. Most babies are overfed. Some doctors and midwives, and handywomen, still advise 2-hourly feeding."

There were 13 deaths in Castle, Queen's, and Bulk (part of) Wards, and the District Health Visitor reports that 7 of these were premature infants, the prematurity being the result of the weakened state of health of the mothers owing to the influenza epidemic and lack of nourishment.

The Health Visitor for Skerton Ward reports on 15 deaths, 6 of which were due to premature birth, and 4 to Convulsions. "The four cases of Convulsions were due to wrong feeding and neglect." In St. Anne's and part of Bulk Wards there were 14 infant deaths. The following are extracts from the Health Visitors report:—"Influenza was the cause of many of these deaths. In some cases the mother had a severe attack during pregnancy, bringing on premature birth. The babies were weakly and delicate and, later, developed some ailment."

"The majority of the children die from Broncho-Pneumonia. Many might be saved if the District Nurse was called in early. We seldom find that the Nurse is asked to visit until we suggest it, and a few of the most important days are thus lost."

"Five bottle-fed babies died from Convulsions. The long-tube bottle is still in existence. It would be a great help if the chemists would recommend the boat-shaped bottle."

"Many mothers do not yet realise the importance of cleanliness and fresh air, but there is certainly an improvement in some cases. Five deaths occurred in back-to-back houses—the surroundings unsatisfactory and the houses dark and badly ventilated."

If progress is to be made in the future in the direction of reducing Infant Mortality it will be necessary to extend Child

Welfare Work by paying more attention to the pre-natal period. Hitherto it has been difficult for the Health Visitors to get in touch with the pregnant mother who, even to a greater extent than the nursing mother, requires advice and assistance.

Puerperal Fever.—Four cases were notified and two of the patients died, one of them in the Infirmary. The other fatal case was one of placenta previa.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—Sixteen cases were notified and enquired into. In 3 cases a doctor was present at birth, and in the other 13 labour was conducted by a midwife. Eight of the cases occurred in the practice of one midwife who is not qualified by examination. In five instances the case was not notified until more than ten days had elapsed from the onset of the disease. The nursing of Ophthalmia is carried out by one of the District Nurses. All cases have been re-visited (more than once, where necessary) by the Health Visitors. In no instance has there been any permanent injury to the eyes affected.

Measles and Whooping Cough, see page 15. Cases of these diseases are visited by the Health Visitors, who give appropriate advice.

Child Welfare Centre, Thurnham House.—This Centre is open every Tuesday afternoon for nursing mothers, babies, and children under school age. Expectant mothers also come, but their number is small. The attendance at the Centre has grown to such an extent during the past year as to justify holding two meetings weekly, and it is desirable also that expectant mothers should be seen on another day than that for nursing mothers and babies. A second Centre, in Skerton Ward, referred to in my Report for 1918, has not yet been established.

The following figures refer to Thurnham House Centre:—25 expectant mothers made 91 attendances, compared with 6 and 21 in the previous year. 312 nursing mothers made 1,669 attendances, compared with 204 and 745 in 1918. 355 children made 2,090 attendances, compared with 228 and 826.

A grant, amounting to £125 14s. 4d., was made by the L.G.B. for maternity and child welfare work in 1919.

In the same building as the Centre is the Treatment Clinic for Minor Ailments in school children. During the year eleven infants received treatment at this clinic. Other children requiring treatment were referred to their own medical attendant or to the Infirmary. In a few cases grey powders were supplied at the Centre.

Hospital Treatment.—Two children under five years of age, suffering from Measles, were admitted to the Isolation Hospital. Endeavours to obtain suitable premises for a Maternity Hospital or Home were unsuccessful up to the end of the year. During the present year, however, High Street Cottage became vacant, and the Corporation, with the sanction of the Ministry of Health, have decided to use it as a temporary Home.

Extension of Maternity and Child Welfare Work.—Arising out of a letter from the Ministry of Health in June, with regard to the need for extending the work, I made a report to the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee in October, from which I extract the following:—

“In my opinion it is desirable that Maternity and Child Welfare work should be extended in the Borough in the following directions:—

“(1) An Ante-natal Clinic for expectant mothers should be established with weekly meetings.

“(2) A second Centre should be established in Skerton, with weekly meetings.

“(3) The Thurnham House Centre should have meetings twice weekly.

“(4) Dental and Ophthalmic treatment should be made available for mothers and children by co-operation with the Education Committee.

“(5) Home nursing should be provided directly for Measles, etc.

“(6) The Infirmary authorities should be approached with a view to the prompt admission of cases requiring treatment.

“(7) Provision should be made whereby one or more Home Helps would be available when required.

“(8) The erection of the Observation Block at the Sanatorium should be proceeded with to allow of accommodation for cases of Measles, etc.

“(9) Steps should be taken to secure beds in Convalescent Homes.

“The need for an Assistant Medical Officer has been apparent since 1915, and was pointed out by me to the Education Committee when the Board of Education asked four years ago for the extension of the work of school medical inspection. Owing to the increasing needs of the Army, the matter was not pressed, and the duties were not carried out. Since that date duty after duty has been imposed on your Medical Officer, until at the present time there is more than sufficient work to keep another Medical Officer fully employed. . . . Without this assistance I cannot see how it is possible to undertake satisfactorily any extension of Child Welfare work in Lancaster.

“Should the Sub-Committee decide to start another Centre and provide for Home Nursing, it will be necessary to appoint an additional Nurse.”

Up to the time of writing, no extension of the work has been undertaken.

Sanitary Administration.

Staff of the Public Health Department.—The staff consists of, in addition to the Medical Officer, a Chief Sanitary Inspector (Inspector of Nuisances) and two Assistant Sanitary Inspectors, four Health Visitors—half of whose time is given to the Education Committee—a Chief Clerk and two assistants, an Office-Girl and a Disinfecter.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector is Inspector under the Food and Drugs Acts, the Shop Hours' Act, the Shops' Act, the Factory and Workshops' Acts, the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, etc. He is also Inspector to the Diseases of Animals Committee and to the Port Sanitary Authority.

One Assistant Inspector is Inspector of Common Lodging Houses and Inspector under the Canal Boats Acts, but the bulk of his time is devoted to Meat Inspection.

The other Assistant does general district work.

Hospitals for Infectious Diseases.—The Small-pox Hospital is situated in the Lancaster Rural District about a mile from the south-eastern boundary of the Borough. It was built in 1904 and can accommodate eleven patients. It has not been necessary to open it since March, 1910. There is a Caretaker in residence at the Hospital which is kept in a state of readiness for the admission of cases

The "Sanatorium" or Fever Hospital, at Luneside can take about 32 patients. The number of admissions in 1919 was 37, as follows:—Scarlet Fever, 24; Diphtheria, 5; Measles, 4; Typhoid Fever, 3; and Enteritis, 1.

Three cases of Scarlet Fever and two cases of Typhoid Fever came from the Lancaster Rural District. The diagnosis in one of the latter cases was wrong; it proved to be Pneumonia and not Typhoid Fever. One of the Diphtheria admissions was also incorrectly diagnosed—it was Scarlet Fever.

There was one death from Scarlet Fever. In the three years, 1917–1919, there have only been 125 patients admitted to the Fever Wards. Whilst this is very satisfactory from one point of view it is not so from another. For the difficulty in getting suitable candidates for training is becoming increasingly difficult, and, also, the difficulty in obtaining Staff Nurses and Sisters when an epidemic threatens is such that it is unwise to reduce the staff to any great extent

in inter-epidemic periods. The cost per patient is, therefore, very great. In my last Report I suggested, as a remedy for this, the amalgamation of the Isolation Hospitals within a ten or fifteen mile radius of Lancaster, with a corresponding economy and efficiency.

In the grounds of the Fever Hospital is a building, built originally for Small-pox., which is now used for the treatment of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis sent by the Lancashire County Council who pay a capitation grant. During the year eleven patients from the Borough and 54 from outside it were admitted for treatment. There were 12 deaths, one of which belonged to the Borough. The accommodation is for 21 patients.

The Medical Officer of Health is the Medical Attendant for the Tuberculosis Wards and for Fever patients admitted from Institutions. Other patients are attended by their own doctors. The Matron (Miss Lanyon) continues to supervise efficiently the Corporation Hospitals, in spite of the difficulty in obtaining and retaining the services of Nurses and Maids.

During the year a small room in the Administrative Block was fitted up as a Sisters' Sitting-room, a new gas main was laid to the Fever Block, and the settling tank and sewage contact beds overhauled. Apart from Influenza in the Spring there was no unusual sickness amongst the Staff. In addition to the Nursing and Domestic Staff there is a Porter (non-resident) who attends chiefly to the boiler, disinfecting machine and laundry engine. 2,195 articles of clothing were disinfected at the Fever Hospital. 97 houses and 14 library books were also disinfected.

Administration of Local Acts, etc.

The Lancaster Corporation Act, 1880, contains clauses dealing with the prohibition of Slaughtering except in the Abbatoir, and with the prevention of infectious disease.

The Lancaster Corporation Act, 1888, gives powers with respect to disinfection, the washing of infected clothes, and the inspection of dairies outside the Borough.

The Lancaster Corporation Act, 1900, contains sections relating to the manufacture of ice cream, the sale of milk from cows affected with tuberculosis, and the regulation of Common Lodging-houses.

The Lancaster Corporation Act, 1918, gives powers for the compulsory disinfection of houses infected by tuberculosis and for the cleaning of houses infested with vermin.

The following General Acts have been adopted :—

Baths and Washhouses Acts.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, Part III.

Notification of Births Act, 1907.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

Bye-Laws and Regulations have been made respecting :—

Common Lodging-houses.

Dairies, Cow-sheds, and Milk Shops.

Glanders and Farcy.

Movement of Swine.

Nuisances.

Port Inspection.

Isolation Hospital.

Slaughter-houses.

Streets and New Buildings.

Tents, Vans, and Sheds.

The Lancaster (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1918, refer to Shell-fish gathered within the Port of Lancaster for human consumption.

Chemical and Bacteriological Work.—The Corporation does not possess a laboratory. Outfits are supplied, on request, to medical men for the free examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester University, of material in suspected cases of Enteric Fever, Diphtheria, and Tuberculosis. The total number of specimens sent to Professor Delèpine was 136, viz. :—8 samples of blood for Enteric Fever, 36 throat swabs for Diphtheria, 91 samples of sputum and one blood specimen for Para-typhoid Fever.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin—23 phials, each containing 4,000 units, 20 of 2,000 units, and one of 8,000 units were used by general practitioners and at the Fever Hospital.

The chemical work of the Public Analyst for the detection of adulterants in Foods and Drugs is elsewhere referred to.

Housing.

Existing Housing Accommodation.—The number of dwelling-houses in the district is 8,706, of which 6,814 are houses of a rateable value up to £20. The average number of working-class houses built annually during the five years before the war was 21. The number built between January 1st, 1915, and December 31st, 1918—a period of four years—was only 7. During 1919 about 8 houses were completed, and one house converted into two. Towards the end of the year a beginning was made with the erection of cottages on the Westfield Memorial Village estate, but none were completed.

Population.—The estimated population for 1919 was 40,000, compared with 41,410 in 1911. No reduction is anticipated in the population in the future. The tendency is in the opposite direction. The question of the expansion of Lancaster is bound up with the future of the munition works which are capable of employing thousands of workers. Their future to some extent depends on the speedy provision of housing accommodation for the employees.

Shortage of Houses.—Whilst the population shews a decline since 1911 the number of families has increased. There are fewer persons to a family. The inhabited house-rate, which was 5·1 in 1881 and 1891, fell to 4·7 in 1901 and to 4·4 in 1911. The annual number of marriages in Lancaster is well over 300. In the nine years, 1903–1911, 932 new houses were built; not more than 50 have been built during the eight years since 1911, and at least 220 have been demolished in the same period.

Over 200 applications for new houses have been received at the Public Health Office. In November, 1913, there were 665 houses empty, reduced to 644 in January, 1915. There have been practically no empty (habitable) houses since 1918.

During the next three years it is estimated that 500 houses will be required to meet the unsatisfied demands for houses (taking account of growth of population, overcrowding, etc.).

To re-house persons to be displaced by the clearance of unhealthy areas a further 318 houses will be required.

The number of dwellings which are unfit for human habitation and cannot be made fit is 241, and the number required to replace obstructive buildings which should be demolished is 16. The total of these figures is 1,075.

To meet the shortage of houses the Lancaster Corporation has prepared a scheme. Sites were visited towards the end of 1918, and one in Scotforth Ward at the Southern end of the Borough was chosen. The Council approved the lay-out of the site in May. In the following month a visit was paid by two representatives of the District Housing Commissioner, who visited the selected site and went carefully into the figures in order to discover how many houses were required. They expressed the opinion that the number (600) estimated was not excessive. Approval of the Scotforth site was given by the Ministry of Health in August, subject to the price of the land being satisfactory. Later, the officer of the Land Valuation Office, to whom had been entrusted the negotiations for purchasing the land, reported that he could not agree with the owners as to the price, and an order was made in October for compulsory purchase. Meanwhile tenders had been accepted for a number of houses to plans prepared in the Borough Surveyor's Office, and a temporary Surveying Assistant appointed. At the October meeting of the Council a scheme for the provision of new houses under Sec. 1 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919, was adopted, which shewed that 1,075 new houses were to be provided:—

With living-room, scullery, and 3 bedrooms—150.

With parlour, living-room, scullery and 3 bedrooms—875 ;

With parlour, living-room, scullery and 4 bedrooms—50 ;

The approximate acreage of land to be acquired, in Scotforth and (probably) Skerton Ward, is 90 acres and 12 is to be the average number of houses per acre. It was proposed to erect 600 houses within, approximately, three years.

Up to the end of 1919 no houses had been built.

Overcrowding.—Without a house-to-house inspection, which has not been found possible, it is difficult to give an accurate estimate of the extent of overcrowding. At the 1911 census, when there were 655 empty houses, there were 153 tenements with more than two occupants per room. The total number of occupiers of these was 1,276. At the Municipal Census in the Spring of 1917, when there were still a few dozen houses unoccupied, there were 321 houses occupied by two or more families. Owing to the absolute shortage of houses in 1919 it was not possible to deal with the cases of overcrowding met with.

Fitness of Houses.—There are, especially in the centre of the town, some hundreds of houses which have served their day and several generations. It is owing to the fact that they were well built of good stone that they have not long since crumbled away. The houses erected during the last thirty or forty years, though not up to the twentieth-century standard, shew a great advance from the sanitary point of view on the older houses, and are capable of being made fit.

The defects found in the unfit houses are leaky roofs, damp walls, defective floors and walls, want of light and air, lack of washing facilities, insufficient closet accommodation, insanitary ashpits, etc.

It was only in urgent cases, where the defect was serious and injurious to health, that action was taken during the year to get defects remedied. Sec. 15 of the 1909 Act was made use of for this purpose.

Unhealthy Areas.—On the map which was submitted with Form D. 89 to the Housing Commissioner in November nine areas were indicated as being areas which may have to be dealt with as unhealthy under Part I. or Part II. of the Act of 1890.

No areas were “represented” prior to or during the year, nor was any complaint received that any particular area was unhealthy.

By-Laws.—We have no By-Laws relating to houses or houses let in lodgings. The By-Laws dealing with tents, vans, sheds, etc., do not call for comment.

General and Miscellaneous.—Under this heading it has to be recorded that the Health Committee purchased the eight houses in Albert Square, with a view to their demolition or reconstruction, referred to in the Annual Report for 1918, in connection with an outbreak of Typhoid Fever.

Appendices.

Statistics for the 12 Months ended 31st December, 1919.

- (1) No complaints as to the unfitness for human habitation of any houses were made.
- (2) No action was taken under Sec. 17 of the Housing, etc. Act of 1909.
- (3) 246 orders for repairs were issued under Section 15 of the 1909 Act. There were no houses voluntarily closed.
- (4) No representations were made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of Closing Orders.
- (5) No Demolition Orders were made.
- (6) About 50 houses, all of them untenanted for some years owing to unfitness, were demolished by the Owners or converted into workshops, etc. Two houses, about to fall, were pulled down in Bridge Lane.
- (7) Nothing was done with respect to obstructive buildings.

- (8) There is no special staff for housing work except, perhaps, the temporary Surveying Assistant. The Inspector of Nuisances is Inspector under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.

In the Official Housing Manual of the Ministry of Health it was stated, concerning the survey of housing conditions and needs which Local Authorities were required to produce by the 31st October, 1919, "equally important is it that Local Authorities and their Officials should not rest content with this first survey. The staff of the Local Authority should, as required by the Housing Acts (Sec. 17 of the Act of 1909) carry out a continuous survey of their district. The result should be periodically reported in a clear manner to the Local Authority, and a summary should be included in the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health."

Such a continuous survey will require an Inspector for Housing purposes only. The work is too much for the present Inspector unless he is to neglect his many other duties.

The Port of Lancaster.

The Port Sanitary Authority is worked under an Order dated 26th November, 1891, Article 3 of which states that :—

"The jurisdiction of the said Port Sanitary Authority shall extend to so much of the said Port of Lancaster as lies between the bridge carrying the London and North-Western Railway across the River Lune in the northward course of the said railway from Lancaster Station, and a line following the course of the common boundary of the Ports of Lancaster and Fleetwood, from the eastern side of the point of land nearest to the north-east side of Fluke Hall as far as a point on the third meridian of longitude west from Greenwich, and continued thence in a straight course and in a north-easterly direction to Sunderland Point; together with the waters of the said Port of Lancaster within such limits, and the place or places for the time being appointed for the mooring or anchoring of ships for such part of the said port under any regulations for the prevention

of the spread of diseases issued under the **author**ity of the statutes in that behalf, and the docks, basins, harbours, creeks, rivers, channels, roads, bays, and streams belonging to such parts of the said port."

The mooring place for an "infected" or "suspected" ship, as defined by Art. I., Part I., L.G.B. Order, 9th October, 1907, and for ships with dangerous infectious disorders on board is situated at the mouth of the Lune, about seven miles from Glasson Dock.

Inspection of the sanitary condition of the vessels is carried out at Glasson Dock and within the Borough.

On the arrival at Glasson Dock of a ship from a foreign port the Customs Officer telegraphs the Health Department and the Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector visit the vessel.

There were no arrivals during the year from a foreign port. Only 21 vessels entered the port, and of these 17 came without cargo for repairs at Glasson Dock. Four vessels with a total tonnage of 546 arrived with cargoes, two with naphtha, and one each with China clay and scrap iron. All the vessels were visited and no defects were found.

The decline of the Port of Lancaster is apparent from the following figures giving the tonnage for the past five years :—

1915...12,546 ; 1916...7,677 ; 1917...4,135 ; 1918...1,031 ; and
1919...546.

(The tonnage of vessels entering for repairs is not included).

The Canal Basin is the only source of water supply available for vessels lying in the Dock. An ample supply of good water is urgently needed, a fact which has been pointed out for many years in these reports.

No case of illness aboard ship was reported to the Port Medical Officer during 1919, nor was it found necessary to take action under the Lancaster (Shellfish) Regulations, 1918.

Reports

OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

for 1919.

Diseases of Animals Committee.

Inspector's Annual Report for the Year 1919.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.

The cowsheds, dairies, and milkshops in the Borough have all been inspected. The drains at one farm were found to be defective; and at another cowshed the drainage was unsatisfactory. With those exceptions, the places were found in a satisfactory condition. Fifty cowkeepers having their premises outside the Borough are registered as "purveyors" within the Borough; 27 cowkeepers within the Borough; and 85 grocers, confectioners, &c., are on the register. The details of those registered during 1919, are as follows:—

Purveyors who purchase milk to sell.....	13
Purveyors who are cowkeepers outside the Borough	9
Cowkeepers within the Borough	1
<hr/>	
Total	23

Movement of Swine.

The movement licences granted during 1919 were as follows:—

	1919		1918	
	Permits	Animals.	Permits.	Animals.
For Slaughter.....	3	3	—	—
„ Markets or Store	9	78	12	55
„ Breeding.....	4	4	5	5
Total	16	85	17	60

Pig Market.

No pig markets have been held in Mary Street during 1919 (the last was in December, 1917), and no pigs have been exhibited for sale at the Cattle Market.

Sheep Dipping Orders.

Under the above Orders, notices have been received (and declarations signed) by 25 occupiers of farms or holdings within the Borough, as follows:—

	Notices.	Animals.
1st Dipping Period (15th July to 31st August)	22	1,070
2nd „ „ (1st September to 15th November)	22	1,272

Poisons and Pharmacy Act.

During the year there have been no new applications for licences; 6 renewal licences were granted as follows:—

Agriculturalists	4
Horticulturalist	1
Agriculturalist and Horticulturalist.....	1
(the same persons as those licensed in 1918).	

Wart Disease (Black Scab) of Potatoes.

Lancaster having (in 1918) been scheduled by the Board of Agriculture as an infected area, only potatoes immune from Wart Disease have been allowed to be planted during 1919. The result has been that only one case of the disease has come under my notice. That case was in the schoolboys' allotments in Oxford Street, when two roots of "King Edwards" were found growing among "The Rectors" (the latter being immune, and the former susceptible).

Corky Scab of Potato.

This disease is not now notifiable, but in September one case was reported to me (from the Park Ward Allotments) as "Wart Disease."

Extermination of Rats and Sparrows.

The importance of "fighting the rat" has resulted, this year, in an appeal to Local Authorities to have a "rat-week," in which to make special efforts for the extermination of rats, which are estimated to number (in this country) as many as there are human beings. It is also estimated that the damage done by them to food only, amounts to at least one penny per head per day. We have supplied rat poisons, etc., throughout the year (continuing the work of 1918), and have given to occupiers of premises troubled by rodents as follows :—

Liverpool Virus.....	72
"Rat Quit"	12
"Ratinol" (Squill)	6
	<hr/>
Total.....	90

Swine Fever.

We have had no case during 1919, but on June 25th a suspected case was reported at premises off Dobby Lane.

Sheep Scab.

We have had one outbreak of this disease, *i.e.*, on March 10th, at Carr House Farm, 2 young hoggs being affected.

Rabies.

On October 8th a suspected case of Rabies was notified, at 47, Borrowdale Road. Our Veterinary Inspector examined the animal (a Pomeranian Bitch) and certified the disease as "Epilepsy."

Margarine and Margarine Cheese.

Fourteen dealers are registered as "wholesale dealers" in Margarine and Margarine Cheese (although no Margarine Cheese is sold in the Borough). The premises number 14.

Food and Drugs

144 samples of Food and Drugs have been taken during the year, and submitted to the Public Analyst. The following is a list of the samples taken :—

Arrowroot.....	2	Coffee.....	2	Oatmeal.....	2
Baking Powder..	2	Flour.....	2	Olive Oil	1
Beer	3	Glycerine	2	Paregoric	1
Bread.....	2	Golden Syrup....	2	Sago	2
Butter	30	Ground Ginger..	2	Seidlitz Powders	1
Camphorated Oil	1	Jam (mixed)....	2	Sugar.....	3
Cheese	6	Lard	3	Tea	2
Cocoa	2	Magnesia	1	Tincture of Opium	1
Compound Liquor-		Margarine.....	3	Vinegar.....	2
ice Powder ...	1	Milk	51	White Pepper ...	2
Cream	2	Mixed Sweets ...	1	Wine (Port)	2
Cream of Tartar	1	Mustard.....	2		

The report of the Analyst was satisfactory in 136 cases. The details of adulteration, &c., were as follows : —

Sample 17 of Milk, 17'0 per cent., added water. Fined £5.

„ 18 „ 5'88 „ „

„ 25 „ 3'53 „ „

„ 28 „ 12'94 „ „ Fined £5.

„ 29 „ 13'0 „ „ Fined £2.

„ 39 „ 4'12 „ „

„ 51 „ '66 „ deficiency in fat.

„ 52 „ 1'0 „ „ „

Three of the cases were taken to Court, and fines of £5, £5, and £2 imposed. The other cases were dealt with by the Committee.

In addition to the samples submitted to the Analyst, 66 samples of milk were tested by lactometer, and for cream and dirt deposit. The result, *re* dirt, was very satisfactory, but in some cases the amount of cream was not satisfactory; and in those cases further samples were taken and submitted to the Analyst. In July, the lactometer, on two successive days, showed the milk supplied by one cowkeeper to contain only 90 per cent. of milk, and an "appeal to the cow" gave the same result.

FRED W. SMITH,

INSPECTOR.

Inspector of Nuisances Annual Report for the Year 1919.

Common Lodging-houses.

The Common Lodging-houses have been visited regularly, both by day and by night. On the whole, they have been kept in a satisfactory condition. For the first time for many years, I have to report that there have been no infringements of the bye-laws or regulations. Two houses (40 and 91, St. Leonardgate) have been re-registered during the year, and the houses now on the register (as before) number 9.

The following figures (adults only), taken from the weekly returns of the lodging-house keepers, show the number of lodgers, as compared with the accommodation provided :—

Month.	Registered Accommodation.	Number of Lodgers.		
		Maximum.	Minimum.	Average.
January	310	161	138	148
February	„	161	134	150
March	„	179	120	149
April.....	„	157	131	146
May	307	146	130	138
June....	„	203	119	140
July	„	147	124	134
August	302	138	117	128
September	„	137	119	127
October	„	137	111	124
November	„	139	114	124
December.....	„	131	116	124

Slaughter Houses.

The Corporation Slaughter Houses and Cattle Market have been visited regularly, the greater part of Mr. Egner's time being spent there. The number of animals slaughtered during the year are shown in the following table :—

	Total.	Average per week.	Total 1918.
Beasts	2533	49	1790
Calves.....	1545	30	1092
Sheep	12511	241	15713
Pigs.....	1961	38	1058
Total ...	18550	358	19653

Unsound Food.

The cases of unsound food dealt with during 1919 were as follows :—

Description.	Number.	Approximate Weight Destroyed.			
		Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Beasts, Tuberculous.....	175	6	1	1	23
„ Other Diseases...	140	2	1	0	21
Pigs, Tuberculous.....	16	0	1	2	11
„ Other Diseases.....	23	0	2	1	16
Sheep, Liver Fluke	132	0	3	0	12
„ Other Diseases ...	88	0	8	1	15
Apples.....	1 lot	0	0	1	20
Bacon	1 „	0	1	3	24
Beef.....	2 „	0	1	0	27
„ frozen.....	1 „	0	0	1	18
Codfish.....	1 „	0	0	0	16
Crayfish	1 tin	0	0	0	1
Flukes.....	2 boxes	0	0	2	24
Haddock	1 lot	0	0	3	0
Kippers	33 boxes	0	4	0	14
Oranges	7 crates	0	7	0	0
Rabbit.....	1	0	0	0	3
Raisins	1 lot	0	0	0	11
Tomatoes.....	7 boxes	0	1	1	10
Tongue	1 tin	0	0	0	6
Tripe.....	1 lot	0	0	2	0
Turnips	1 „	0	15	0	0
Veal.....	1 „	0	0	1	20
Whittings.....	1 „	0	0	1	4
Total	638	10	12	2	16

Sanitary Conveniences.

The Sanitary Conveniences are cleansed daily (Sundays included), and, on the whole, are in good condition. There are still a number of “human beings” who should be described as “beasts” considering

the disgusting way in which they treat these conveniences. There have been no new erections during 1919, but two have been removed, *i.e.*, w.c.'s and urinal in King Street (opposite Assembly Rooms), and urinal in Victoria Place.

The following table shows the amounts taken each month at the slot w.c.'s, and also the number of other articles found in the money boxes:—

1919	Brock Street.		Moor Lane.		Skerton Bridge.	Green Ayre.		Total.	Other Articles.
	Men.		Women.			Men.	Women.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
January.....	0 19 11	1 1 7	0 0 11	0 0 7	£ 0 2 0	£ 0 7 5	£ 0 1 7	£ s. d. 2 14 0	25
February ...	0 19 5	1 4 1	0 1 4	0 0 3	0 1 1	0 8 0	0 2 3	2 16 5	30
March	1 6 0	1 7 8	0 1 11	0 0 8	0 4 7	0 11 0	0 2 11	3 14 9	4
April... ..	1 7 1	1 7 11	0 1 7	0 0 11	0 5 1	0 14 10	0 3 0	4 0 5	34
May	1 9 0	1 3 2	0 1 3	0 0 7	0 2 2	0 13 7	0 3 2	3 12 11	28
June.....	2 6 1	2 0 0	0 2 0	0 0 10	0 3 3	1 4 1	0 5 8	6 1 11	57
July.....	1 15 6	1 19 10	0 1 9	0 1 2	0 1 0	0 15 4	0 7 2	5 1 9	49
August	1 16 7	1 18 2	0 2 1	0 1 6	0 1 5	0 18 0	0 8 3	5 6 0	40
September...	2 1 7	2 8 6	0 2 10	0 1 7	0 4 8	0 17 11	0 7 2	6 4 3	48
October.....	1 11 10	1 11 9	0 2 1	0 1 0	0 6 1	0 12 1	0 2 11	4 7 9	30
November...	1 6 4	1 4 7	0 2 1	0 0 9	0 1 2	0 10 5	0 3 3	3 8 7	23
December ...	1 12 8	1 13 1	0 1 8	0 0 7	0 3 4	0 7 9	0 2 2	4 1 3	27
Silver Coins	0 4 0	0 2 0	...	...	...	0 4 0	...	0 10 0	...
Total	18 16 0	19 2 4	1 1 6	0 10 5	1 15 10	8 4 5	2 9 6	52 0 0	395
Total 1918	14 2 0	15 5 8	0 19 5	0 8 10	2 13 4	9 17 0	2 11 10	45 18 1	390

The £52 os. od. (total received) represents 12,365 persons. Silver coins (instead of pennies) were found in the boxes, as follows:—

Half-crowns	6
Florins	7

Eight of those coins were claimed and returned (less one penny).

Canal Boats.

Fifty-two visits to 20 Canal Boats have been made during the year. The boats are kept in a very satisfactory condition. The only case where the regulations were not complied with was in July, when the master of one boat had not his certificate with him.

Inspections of the Town.

A systematic house-to-house inspection of the town has been continued, especial attention being given to the yards, courts, and poorer parts of the town.

Shops Act.

This Act continues to work satisfactorily. I had complaints that the waitresses at one café did not get their weekly half-holiday, and that is the only case I have to report.

I received (in the autumn) a deputation from the Shop Assistants Union regarding Early Closing Orders and the weekly half-holiday, and that Union promises to help the Local Authority as far as possible.

Overcrowding.

We have dealt with five cases of overcrowding during the year. I am afraid that figure does not represent the overcrowding in the town; but owing to the house-shortage there are a large number of houses where more than one family reside, and we only dealt with the very bad cases.

New Retail Businesses.

The Local Authority having been asked to report all new businesses commenced to the Regional Officer of National Service, I reported 11 such cases during the year, as follows :—

Bookbinder	1	Confectioner.....	1	Printer	1
Brass Castings...	1	Cutler.....	2	Wardrobe Dealer	1
Butcher.....	1	Furniture	1		
Clogger.....	1	Photographer ...	1		

Pig Bye-laws.

We have received applications for permission to keep pigs within the distance prescribed by our Bye-laws from four persons. The applications were granted in two cases.

Housing and Town Planning Act.

No closing or demolition orders have been made during the year, owing to the scarcity of houses. Several private schemes are in hand, which will result in a number of scheduled houses being dealt with (pulled down, &c.) without the Committee having to enforce the provisions of the Act. This Act enables us to deal with many defects in property which did not come under the Public Health Acts. The defects so dealt with during the year total 246, as follows :—

Damp walls	14
Doors of rooms	5
Empty houses (to be boarded up)	2
Fireplaces and chimneys.....	5
Floors of rooms.....	16
Roofs not watertight	41
Slopstones defective.. ..	4
Spouts (on rear premises)	37
Stairs or Steps dangerous	1
Walls (plaster, &c.)	13
Washboiler or washhouse	16

W.C. doors.....	16
„ casing	6
„ floors	4
„ roofs	10
„ seats	8
„ walls	8
Water supply.....	8
Windows, enlarge opening	—
„ make to open	3
„ re-cord.....	14
„ repair.....	2
Yard doors.....	9
„ walls	4

Factories and Workshops.

The Factories and Workshops of the town have been inspected and the following defects found :—

Drains defective.....	2
Gully inside bakehouse	1
Limewashing required.....	14
Water Closets, not screened from workroom ...	1
„ no W.C.	3
„ no separate W.C.'s for sexes ...	1
„ blocked	2
„ re-hang door	1
Workroom dirty	1
Workroom stairs dirty.....	1
Workroom floor dangerous.....	1
	—
Total.....	28

The Factory and Workshop Register has been kept up to date, and 96 premises registered during the year, as follows :—

FACTORIES (13).

Aerated Water	1	Mechanics	6
Bookbinder.....	1	Printer	1
Cutter.....	1	Silversmith and Jeweller	1
Joiner	1	Pork Butcher.....	1

WORKSHOPS (64).

Bakers and Confectioners	10	Mechanics.....	8
Black Puddings.....	1	Milliners	4
Boot Maker.....	7	Organ Builder.....	1
Boot Polish.....	1	Plumbers	3
Brushmaker.....	1	Printer	1
Cabinetmaker.....	3	Sheet Metal Worker ...	1
Chemical Packers	2	Stained Glass, &c.	1
Clogger.....	1	Sugar Boiler	1
Dressmakers.....	4	Tailor.....	3
Fat Cleaner.....	1	Upholsterer	1
Gunsmith.....	2	Watchmaker	2
Gut Cleaner	1	Wheelwright	1
Marble Mason.....	1	" Biff " Cleanser.....	1

Firewood..... 1

DOMESTIC WORKSHOPS (17).

Bootmakers	3	Shirtmaker	1
Cane Chair-seater	1	Stocking Knitter	1
Clogger ..	1	Tailors	3
Confectioner.....	1	Watchmaker	1
Dressmaker	5		

WORK PLACES (2).

Locomotive Shed.....	1	Timber Yard	1
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The premises now on the register number 524, as follows:—

Factories	108
Workshops	334
Domestic Workshops.....	47
Work Places	35

46 lists of 19 outworkers have been received during the year (as required by the Act) from 24 tradesmen, and the premises of the outworkers have been inspected.

Notices Served.

The number of notices served during the year were :—

Preliminary	955
Statutory	421
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Total.....	1376

The number of notices not complied with on 31st December, 1918, were :—

Preliminary	5
Statutory	26

The number of notices not complied with on 31st December, 1919, were :—

Preliminary	29
Statutory	33

Magisterial Proceedings.

No cases (Health Committee) have been taken before the Magistrates; but 3 cases of Food and Drugs (Milk, Diseases of Animals Committee) were taken into court, and the defendants fined £5, £5, and £2, respectively.

Summary.

The following schedule gives, in brief, the details of the cases attended to during the year :—

Accumulation and deposit of offensive matter	38
Ashpits and ashbins not satisfactory	184
Bakehouses, visits paid	56
Canal boats, visits paid.....	52
„ infringement of regulations	1
Chipped potato and fried fish shops visited ...	40

Common lodging-houses, infringement of bye-laws, &c.	—
Dangerous buildings, chimney stacks, walls, &c.	7
Drains defective	411
,, tested and found satisfactory	82
Factories and workshops registered.....	96
Filthy premises	22
Housing and Town Planning Act, defects.....	246
Infectious diseases	742
Manure pits not satisfactory.....	6
Miscellaneous cases	86
New businesses visited and reported	11
Overcrowded dwellings.....	5
Pavement in yards, &c., bad.....	29
Premises without sufficient w.c. accommodation	4
Privies or pail closets not satisfactory	2
Shops Act—Infringement	1
Smoke nuisance	15
Spouts, defects.....	142
Stagnant water in cellars	27
Unsound food	638
Vans visited.....	10
Vessels visited (Port of Lancaster)	21
,, defects	—
Waste pipes, defective	41
,, not disconnected from drain.....	3
Water closets, defective.....	356
Water pipes and supply defective	74
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	3,448

FRED W. SMITH,

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

